

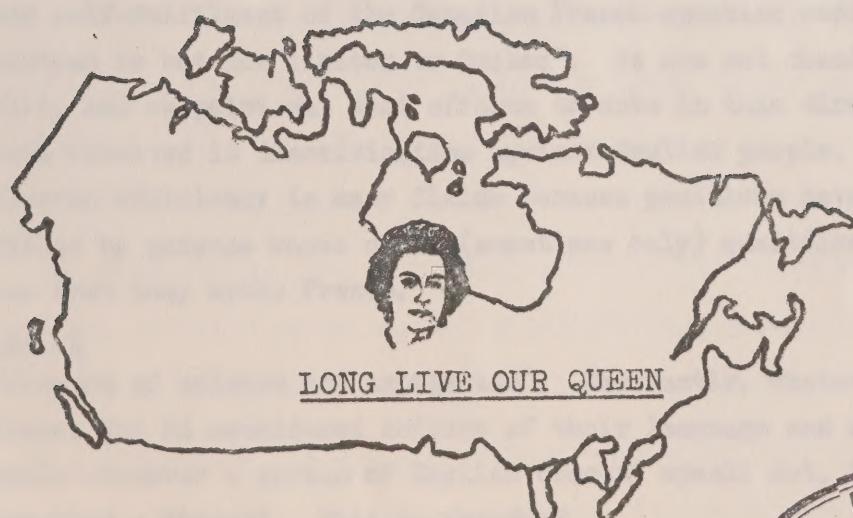
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Dominion of Canada English Speaking Association

BRIEF
TO THE
SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON
THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA



WHEREAS the Federal Government of Canada has proposed a Bill, C-60, to amend the constitution of Canada, this Association wishes it to be plainly understood that its members are unalterably opposed to such a measure. We find it entirely unacceptable that the role of Her Majesty the Queen should be diminished in Canada; that the British North America Act should be amended by a predominately French Cabinet, representing a minority of the people and that the language and culture of Canadians of English descent should be eroded, even to the extent of considering them only equal to those of the French.

BESIDES objecting to Bill C-60 in its entirety, we specifically abhor many sections of it, which we shall mention briefly.

Provision No. 2

The Bill does not use the word "Dominion".

Provision No. 4

—"society - governed by institutions and laws whose legitimacy is founded upon the will and consent of the people". In the past ten years we have had forced upon us many laws which were not the wish of the majority, such as bilingualism, homossexualism, abolition of the death penalty, and the metric system.

Provision No. 4 (iii)

—"to recognize a permanent national commitment to the endurance and self-fulfilment of the Canadian French-speaking society centred in but not limited to Quebec". We are not committed to this, and we point out that efforts to date in this direction have resulted in discrimination against English people, and lowered efficiency in many fields because positions have been filled by persons whose chief (sometimes only) qualification was that they spoke French.

Provision No. 6

—"freedom of opinion and expression". Constantly, whatever the French say is considered defence of their language and culture, while whenever a person of English descent speaks out, he is labelled a "bigot". This is freedom?

Provision No. 13

"The English and French languages are the official languages of Canada". We believe that history, geography, economics and common sense point to one language in Canada - English.

Provision No. 21

"-any parent who is a citizen has the right to have his or her children receive their schooling in the language "of the minority"." While this is being forced on most of Canada, people who wish their children educated in English in Quebec are being denied this right. French is being forced even on the French; at a school in this area French-speaking students are having marks deducted when they are heard speaking English; 110 failed to graduate, mostly because of this.

Provision No. 30

"The Sovereign Head of Canada is Her Majesty the Queen, who shall be styled the Queen of Canada, and whose sovereignty as such shall pass to her heirs and successors in accordance with law." What, you will say, is wrong with that? This is wrong - the B.N.A. Act reads, "The Command-in-Chief of the Land and Naval Militia, and of all Naval and Military Forces of and in Canada, is hereby declared to continue and to be vested in the Queen." Bill C-60 reads, "The Command-in-chief of the Canadian Forces is hereby declared to be vested in the Governor General of Canada." It has been reported that Russian-born George Ignatieff could be our next Governor General. We strongly object to this, as it would set a precedence whereby the Prime Minister, in the future, could appoint any foreign person of his choice to this high position in our Dominion.

Provision No. 34

"The flag of Canada shall be the red and white unifoliate, as heretofore established by law." We DEMAND the restoration of the Red Ensign, under which so many of us served during the two World Wars, although we can understand why it has little meaning for the Prime Minister and most of his Cabinet.

Provision No. 37, 39

The Parliament - may - increase, diminish - the territorial limits of any - province." And "establish a new province in any territory for the time being forming part of Canada but not included in any other province." Does this seem to safeguard New Brunswick from having part of its territory "ripped off"? Read it again. All the federal government has to do is declare part of New Brunswick no longer included, if they have the majority vote in parliament, then "(1) increase the territorial limits of Quebec, or (2) establish the new province of Acadia.

Provision No. 42

We object to the Queen's Privy Council/Cabinet being renamed, the Council of State of Canada.

Provision No. 56

We object to the Senate being restructured, and renamed the House of Federation.

Provision No. 72

We object to Quebec having four (4) additional members in the House of Commons after each census, regardless of population. We object to Quebec's being excepted from regulations governing all other provinces, as expressed in the phrase "other than Quebec" used eight (8) times in provision 72.

Provision No. 91

"The Powers of the Parliament" reads like a list of the areas which the present federal government has mismanaged and abused during the last ten years.

- 1A. "The public debt" has grown to spaceage figures.
2. "The regulation of trade and commerce" has been mismanaged until Canada has an astronomical trade deficit.
- 2A "Unemployment insurance" has become a monster, encouraging lesser people not to work.
3. "The raising of money by any mode or system of taxation" has been a goal pursued with enthusiasm exceeded only by the enthusiasm to dispose unprofitably of the monies so raised.
4. "The borrowing of money" has gone on until it is impossible ever to repay it.
5. "Postal service" is a high-priced joke.
6. "Statistics" are constantly manipulated in favour of the government, and to whitewash their errors.
7. The "Militia, military and naval service and defence" has been ham-strung, and reduced to another refuge for the advancement of those who speak French. If Canada had depended on those who speak French to fight the last war, we would have had damned small forces.
14. "Currency and coinage". As a result of our federal government's excessive printing of paper money, excessive taxation and excessive interference in the market, our money has fallen drastically, and will fall further.
17. "Weights and measures". Our federal government has imposed the metric system upon us, causing tremendous expense and much confusion.

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French speaking people have gained over the years by evolution.

We Pray to God, whose name is conspicuously absent in Bill C-60,
that such a solution should not become necessary.

Presented by the Dominion of Canada English Speaking Association,

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Russell Bowes, Spokesman

